

**RESOLUTION
of the
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

**By Johnson, Reich, Gordon, Hofstede, Samuels, Lilligren, Goodman, Glidden,
Schiff, Tuthill, Quincy, and Colvin Roy**

**Honoring Council Member Betsy Hodges for her years of service to the City of
Minneapolis.**

Whereas, Betsy Hodges was first elected to the City Council of and for the City of Minneapolis in 2005 and has served with full faith, commitment, and distinction for eight years, during which time she has served as a member of the Council's standing committees on Ways & Means, Intergovernmental Relations, Transportation & Public Works, Public Safety, Civil Rights & Health, Audit, Elections, Board of Estimate and Taxation, and in leadership positions as Chair of Ways & Means and Intergovernmental Relations; and

Whereas, during her tenure as Chair of both Intergovernmental Relations and Ways & Means, Betsy Hodges worked tirelessly over many years to reform the City's inefficient and outdated system of closed pension funds, which were costing the City millions and harming the City's ability to pay for basics services on which citizens depend; and

Whereas, this work finally culminated in a complete merger of the closed funds into the professionally-managed state pension system, saving taxpayers \$20 million in 2012 alone and providing retirees and their widows every penny they earned; and

Whereas, this historic reform, which had eluded City leaders for decades was unanimously approved by the Minneapolis City Council in 2011; and

Whereas, during her tenure as Chair of Ways & Means, Betsy Hodges' leadership through four structurally balanced City budgets helped the city to responsibly commit to important needs and contribute to Minneapolis' coming through the recession and recovery stronger economically than almost anywhere else in the United States; and

Whereas, during her tenure as Chair of Ways & Means, Betsy Hodges tormented city staff by starting each Ways & Means agenda setting with everyone in attendance sharing "Good News"; and

Whereas, Betsy Hodges has been an advocate for ongoing efforts to reform government to provide better service for citizens, including her support for single sort recycling, for implementing 311, for public works job classification reform and for leading the establishment of the independent Audit Committee and tripling the size of the City's audit function; and

Whereas, during her term as President of the League of Minnesota Cities, a position usually held by Mayors, Betsy Hodges played a crucial role in rebuilding the coalition of urban, suburban and rural local governments to support a reform of, and increase in, Local Government Aid (LGA) which passed the State Legislature in 2013 ; and

Whereas, Betsy Hodges served during a time when the State of Minnesota drastically cut funding to the Cities, challenging local leaders to absorb those cuts while maintaining both our values and the basic services on which residents depend; and

Whereas, Betsy received bad news about state funding cuts with great restraint and an admirable minimum of rhythmically-spewed obscenities (at least in public) which was a great relief to the more refined sensibilities of her office staff, which are positively Victorian by comparison; and

Whereas, Betsy Hodges has, through her integrity, her sense of humor, her ability to push established boundaries, her civility and candor, and through her strong leadership, encouraged others to be respectful and professional yet strive for change toward a brighter future; and

Whereas, Betsy Hodges has helped make lasting, positive change in our community because of her dedication to causes of equality and social justice; and

Whereas, during her tenure as Chair of Intergovernmental Relations, Council Member Hodges helped guide the merger of the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County Library Systems which combined the depth of the Minneapolis collection with the breadth of the Hennepin collection, providing not just stable funding, but also improved library services to the people of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, Betsy Hodges fought for environmental justice and sustainability, playing an instrumental role in bringing mandatory recycling to events and organics recycling to several Minneapolis neighborhoods; and

Whereas, despite being directionally challenged, Betsy Hodges has been an assertive and steadfast advocate for transit infrastructure improvements which are outside of Ward 13, but which are necessary for Minneapolis as a whole to grow into a sustainable City of the future, including well-planned roads, rails, and bike and pedestrian paths all over Minneapolis; and

Whereas, Betsy Hodges served with integrity and dedication; and engaged the residents of Ward 13 to maintain and improve public safety, address concerns over the size of new homes while encouraging investment in neighborhoods, invest in streets and public infrastructure, balance growth and neighborhood livability and character through development, and to mitigate the impacts of airport noise; and

Whereas, Betsy Hodges has served with humility as reigning arm-wrestling champion of the City Council staff; and

Whereas, after eight years of distinguished public service, HODGES will leave the Minneapolis City Council, having established a legacy of excellence reflective of her commitment to the highest principles of public service, good government, and the numerous contributions made to the betterment of the City enterprise and to the well-being and prosperity of the community of the City of Minneapolis.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

The Mayor & City Council do hereby present this Honorary Resolution in recognition of its sincere gratitude and appreciation for the many contributions made by Council Member Hodges to the City of Minneapolis, together with their best wishes in her future endeavors including as the next Mayor of the City of Minneapolis.